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and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and a scan head on a head mounting portion, an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and scanner software for controlling scanning of said print device, said control program comprising:

code for controlling a detector adapted to detect that said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion, wherein said print device communicates with said external computer to start said scanner software when said detector detects that said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-23 have been rejected. Of the rejected claims, claims 1, 5, 11, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, are independent in form. Claims 24-29 are hereby added. No new matter has been added in this amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e)

Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Oida, et al. (USP 5,987,186) ("Oida").

With regard to all of the independent claims (1, 5, 11, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23), the Examiner has taken the position that Oida discloses the claimed invention, including the claimed "predetermined preparation," recited in the claims, e.g., in independent claim 1. In support of this position, the Examiner points to the discussion of Figure 2 and column 4, lines 34-36 of

Oida. (See pages 2, 5 and 6 of the Office Action.)

Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that these rejections, in view of Oida, do not accurately reflect the teachings of Oida and are therefore not correct because the claimed features (e.g., at least the predetermined preparation) are not taught by Oida. Upon review of Figure 2 of Oida and the corresponding description in the specification indicated by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the referenced description in Oida discusses only the attachment of either a print head or a scanning head to a device.

Oida does not disclose detecting a “predetermined preparation” or “an original document”, to determine when to send a signal to the external computer to start scanner software. In the present invention, such predetermined preparation includes e.g., placement of an original document to be scanned in the scanner/printer.

The Oida patent does not teach a process leading up to the host issuing a scan command, as discussed in Col. 6, lines 49-61. As set forth in Oida, a scan instruction starts with the host, and is sent to the printer/scanner block 219, which in turn sends the command to scanner controller 906. In Oida, both the white reference sheet and original documents are read in this manner.

To the contrary, upon execution of the predetermined preparation (i.e., placing the document in the scanner), the scanner automatically sends a ready to scan status, (e.g., a start scan signal) to the host, from where the scan command is then issued. See for example, page 25, line 15-page 26, line 6. Oida does not disclose or suggest such a start scan signal or process. Therefore, the present invention as recited in the independent claims 1, 5, 11, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 is not taught or suggested by Oida.

Accordingly, Applicant believes these independent claims, and the claims

depending therefrom, are allowable over the art of record for at least the stated reasons.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 24-29 are also patentably distinct over the Oida patent. Oida discloses that a print head and a scan head can be selectively mounted on a carriage of a printer and the printer can carry out a printing operation or a scanning operation by control of a personal computer connected to the printer.

However, Oida does not teach or suggest the claimed "said print device communicates with said external computer to start said scanner software in a case that said detector detects that said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion." For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 24-29 are patentably distinct from Oida.

Applicant has not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant believes that, as the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are allowable for at least the reasons discussed, the dependent claims are allowable for at least similar reasons. Applicant however, reserves the right to address such rejections should such be necessary.

If any outstanding issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

AUTHORIZATION

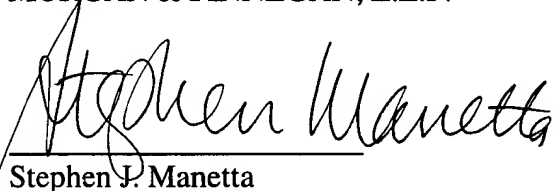
Applicant believes no time extensions are required for this Amendment and Request. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4544. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 21, 2003

By:


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